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U. S. Stresses Support For Khanh, Hits Riots

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The State Department today reaffirmed its support of the government of President Nguyen Khanh and criticized the anti-government demonstrations in South Viet Nam.

In its initial response to student demonstrations in Saigon and other cities, the department said the United States supports the Khanh government "as the best

means" of building a national unity.

It added that "obviously, anything of a divisive nature is neither in the interests of Viet Nam government or its people."

Press spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said it was too early to discuss the motivations of the demonstrations and added that is was an "internal matter" for the Saigon government.

Other officials, deeply concerned with the stability of the

government, have been alarmed by what appears to be a growing anti-government and anti-American sentiment in intellectual and political circles.

The Khanh government—the third in the last eight months—has received full support from the United States. Secretary of Defense McNamara and Secretary of State Rusk have spoken out strongly on behalf of the relatively unknown army general who took power last winter.

Officials have said that if the Khanh government is toppled it will be a grave blow to prosecuting the war against the Communist Congo guerrillas since an important element of the fight is a unified national government with loyal administrators in the 41 provinces.

There is no evidence here, however, that the demonstrators are seeking the overthrow of the Khanh government.

Similar actions last fall led eventually to the downfall of the government of Ngo Dinh Diem, a Roman Catholic who was opposed by Buddhist leaders.

Although Buddhists are involved in the present demonstrations they have apparently not undertaken to seek the overthrow of Gen. Khanh, himself a Buddhist.

In another matter, the State Department emphasized that a report written by a staff member of the Central Intelligence Agency which called for withdrawing from Viet Nam was not a statement of United States policy.

The de-classified document was a "think piece" such as many which are circulated within the government and reflected only the views of the author, Mr. McCloskey said.

Mr. McCloskey noted that the CIA paper was not "cleared, discussed, nor read" by either the United States Intelligence Board, the Viet Nam task force, or any principal officers of the State Department or Pentagon.